

May 22, 1902

DEATH OF A PIONEER

By the death of J. D. Fargo, which occurred at the residence of Marshall Brown, four miles north of Groton, on Monday, May 19, Brown county loses one of her oldest and most respected citizens. His last illness was short, he having been stricken with paralysis about a week ago. Mr. Fargo was born in New York in 1817 and was therefore in the 85th year of his age. He was among the early Michigan pioneers and followed the march of civilization westward, coming to Brown county in the early 80's, and his interests have since been identified with its.

Mr. Fargo united with the M. E. church in the 60's and was a member of that church until coming to Dakota, where he joined the Presbyterian church in Groton, there being no M. E. church here at that time. He leaves many relatives to cherish his memory. Mrs. S. M. Gibbs, a sister, and Mrs. Marshall Brown, his daughter, being the only residents of Brown county. His sons J. P. Fargo, of Doland, and D. P. Fargo, of Streator, Ill., are here to attend the funeral, which takes place from the Brown residence this afternoon; the Rev. D. M. Butt, of Britton, being called to officiate in the absence of Rev. J. S. Butt.

Below we append the biography of Mr. Fargo, taken from a history of Montcalm county, Michigan, his home before coming to Dakota:

Among the truly representative pioneers of Montcalm county, few, if any, have been more intimately associated with the early settlement than John D. Fargo. He has witnessed the transformation of a trackless wilderness into a populous and highly cultivated community.

He was born in Herkimer county, N. Y., Nov. 14, 1817, and was the oldest of ten children of Daniel Fargo. When John D. was seventeen years of age, he left the parental home to learn the trade of shoemaker and tanner with his uncle, Ariel Chapman in Ohio; here he remained five years. In 1840 he was married to Miss Lucy C. Borden, of Hartford, O. Being without means and ambitious to secure a home, the young couple concluded to try a new country; accordingly came to Ionia in the spring of 1853. *** Now having a large, well improved farm, with pleasant surroundings.

They have been the parents of four children, three of whom are now living. Densel P. is deputy warden in the house of corrections at Ionia; James P. is a farmer in Dakota, and Mara Adella is a teacher in the school at Greenville.

Politically Mr. Fargo is a republican, has held several positions of trust and honor, being elected to the legislature in 1853.